

CHIEF JUDGE RICARDO S. MARTINEZ

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	No. CR19-202RSM
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED
v.)	MOTION TO SCHEDULE GUILTY
)	PLEA HEARING VIA
STEVEN MICHAEL BURKE,)	VIDEOCONFERENCE
)	
Defendant.)	

THE COURT has considered the unopposed motion of the parties to proceed forward with a guilty plea hearing via teleconference and finds that:

(a) Under General Order 04-20, felony pleas and sentencings may proceed by video or telephone if “the district judge in a particular case finds for specific reasons that the plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice.” A plea hearing in this case cannot be delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice; and

(b) Mr. Burke is prepared to enter into a guilty plea and resolve his case in a timely fashion; and

(c) Mr. Burke wishes to enter a plea as soon as possible in light of anticipated delay associated with the COVID pandemic and a desire to alleviate presumptive backlogged court calendars following the COVID recovery process. Mr. Burke understands that the Court may not be as able to accommodate a timely resolution of his case in the future as more cases are delayed; and

1 (d) a videoconference guilty plea hearing would avoid further delays in the
2 ultimate sentencing in this case, which would cause “serious harm to the interests of
3 justice.” *See* General Order No. 04-20 (3/30/20).

4 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter should be set for a guilty plea
5 hearing via teleconference as soon as possible.

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7 DONE this 9th day of November 2020.

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11 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
12 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT
13 JUDGE

14 Presented by:

15 s/ *Sara Brin*
16 Assistant Federal Defender
17 Attorney for Steven Burke
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